



**Beautiful by Amy Reed**

ISBN: 9781416978312 (Trade Paperback)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2010

\*Age Range: 14+ (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 9+ (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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When Cassie moves from the tiny town where she has always lived to a suburb of Seattle, she is determined to leave her boring, good-girl existence behind. This is Cassie's chance to stop being invisible and start being the kind of girl who's worth noticing.

Stepping into her new identity turns out to be easier than Cassie could have ever imagined...one moment, one choice, changes everything.

Cassie's new existence both thrills and terrifies her. Swept into a world of illicit parties and social land mines, she sheds her virginity, embraces the numbness she feels from the drugs, and floats through it all, knowing that she is now called *beautiful*. She ignores the dangers of her fast-paced life...but she can't sidestep the secrets and the cruelty.

Cassie is trapped in a swift downward spiral tinged with violence and abuse, and no one--not even the one person she thought she could trust--can help her now.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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[*Beautiful*] is essentially a new-millennium *Go Ask Alice* with a similar blend of cautionary horror story and weirdly fascinated detail . . . Chilling narration . . . There's boldness in the book's willingness to make Cassie unsympathetic at times . . . Train-wreck fascination galore . . . It'll probably be passed around enthusiastically."—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

"The gift in this book [*Beautiful*] is Reed's ability to find the perfect words and use them in ways for which the reader is not ready. The writing is lonely, haunting, sensuous, and oddly beautiful. —**VOYA**

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

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- ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

**Updated 3.21.24**

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Contact: Education.library@simonandschuster.com

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- [Amy Reed on the character Cassie from \*Beautiful\*](#)
  - [Our Stories Matter: An Interview With Amy Reed](#)
  - [Book Trailer](#)
  - [Author's Website](#)

## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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"A lot of people have asked me how autobiographical *Beautiful* is. I usually say something cryptic like "some," or "a little," or sometimes even, "a lot." I remember workshopping it in my MFA program, how someone commented that a few of the scenes were unbelievable. The scenes she was talking about just happened to be some of the most autobiographical in the book. It is often said that truth is stranger than fiction. Truth is also scarier than fiction. It is also more tragic. The truth is, there was an Alex. She had green hair. She made me burn pictures of my old friends. She convinced me to do things I knew were wrong, and I called her my best friend. And then she turned on me. To this day, I don't really know why. Perhaps part of writing *Beautiful* was an attempt to find out. Maybe I was trying to understand her, trying to understand how someone could be so cruel. However, many pages later, I still don't know the answer....The pain of that time in my life is still raw, can still make me feel like I'm thirteen and huddled in my bedroom wondering if it will ever stop. That's when I started writing. That's why I had to start writing. That's why I write now." —[Amy Reed](#)

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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